Listing of Claims (indicating status and amendments):

1   1.   (Currently amended) Apparatus for processing business data
2   processing activities during runtime, said apparatus comprising:

3   [an] plural activity instances applied for respective uses
4   at runtime; and

5   a descriptor for each said activity instance [associated]
6   which is customizable uniquely [with] for each said activity
7   instance;

8   wherein said descriptor includes parameters which are
9   programmable at runtime for determining lifecycle behaviors of
10   each said activity instance, whereby lifecycle behavior may be
11   customized for each activity instance during runtime.

1   2.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein said
2   descriptor is programmable to modify said lifecycle behaviors
3   according to a use made of said activity instance.

1   3.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said use
2   of said activity instance is responsive to a request by a client.

1   4.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 2 wherein said use
2   of said activity instance is responsive to a request by an
3   activity instance.

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1   5.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said
2   descriptor is programmable to modify said lifecycle behaviors
3   according to a position in a system hierarchy of said activity
4   instance.

1   6.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said
2   descriptor enables control of concurrency of activity instances.

1   7.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said
2   descriptor enables control of re-creation of activity instances.

1   8.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said
2   descriptor enables control of termination of activity instances.

1   9.   (Original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said
2   descriptor permits creation of an activity instance identifier.

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1   10.   (Currently amended) A method for improving the processing of
2   business data processing activities respective of conditions at
3   runtime, said method comprising the steps of:

4   defining activity lifecycle characteristics in [[a]]
5   descriptors that are customized respective of the processing of
6   individual activity instances at runtime;

7   associating [[said]] such a descriptor uniquely with [[an]]
8   said respective activity instance; and

9   using said descriptor to control a lifecycle of said
10   activity instance, whereby runtime processing may influence
11   lifecycle definition.

1   11.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said
2   descriptor is programmable to enable definition of varying
3   activity lifecycle characteristics according to a use made of
4   said activity instance.

1   12.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said use
2   of said activity instance is responsive to a request by a client.
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1   13.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11 wherein said use
2   of said activity instance is responsive to a request by an
3   activity instance.

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1   14.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said
2   descriptor is programmable to modify said lifecycle behaviors
3   according to a position in a system hierarchy of said activity
4   instance.

1   15.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said
2   descriptor enables control of concurrency of activity instances.

1   16.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said
2   descriptor enables control of re-creation of activity instances.

1   17.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said
2   descriptor enables control of termination of activity instances.

1   18.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said
2   descriptor permits creation of an activity instance identifier.

1   19.   (Original) A computer program product comprising computer
2   program instructions stored on a computer-readable medium for,
3   when loaded into a computer and executed, causing the computer to
4   carry out the steps of the method as claimed in claim 10.

1   20.   (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim
2   19, wherein said descriptor is programmable to enable definition
3   of varying activity lifecycle characteristics according to a use
4   made of said activity instance.

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1   21.   (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 20
2   wherein said use of said activity instance is responsive to a
3   request by a client.

1   22.   (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim 20
2   wherein said use of said activity instance is responsive to a
3   request by an activity instance.

1   23.   (Original) A computer program product as claimed in claim
2   19, wherein said descriptor is flexibly programmable to modify
3   said lifecycle behaviors according to a position in a system
4   hierarchy of said activity instance.

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